



Department of Justice

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JACKSONVILLE MAN SENTENCED TO FOUR YEARS IN FEDERAL PRISON FOR POSSESSION OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

Jacksonville, Florida - United States Attorney A. Brian Albritton announces that U.S. District Judge Marcia Morales Howard today sentenced Matthew Brewer (age 30, of Jacksonville) to four years in federal prison, to be followed by 10 years of supervised release, for possessing child pornography. Brewer also was ordered to register as a sex offender. He had pleaded guilty on September 23, 2009.

According to court documents, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement ("ICE") initiated a nationwide investigation after searching a computer in New Jersey. On this computer, ICE special agents discovered a particular internet protocol address which was hosting a child pornography website. ICE special agents surreptitiously purchased access to this website, and this led to the execution of a series of search warrants in Virginia and Florida. The information obtained revealed that an individual named Matt Brewer in Jacksonville had purchased access to one of the illegal websites.

Forensic analysis of Brewer's computer revealed that it contained more than 8,000 images of child pornography, including 149 videos, many of which were organized into user-created folders. Several of the images and videos depicted sadistic conduct, including the molestation and sexual abuse of very young children.

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse. Led by United States Attorneys' Offices and the Criminal Division's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section (CEOS), Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state, and local resources to better locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, and to identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafechildhood.gov.

This investigation was part of Operation Predator, a nationwide ICE initiative to identify, investigate and arrest those who prey on children, including human traffickers, international sex tourists, Internet pornographers, and foreign-national predators whose crimes make them deportable. Launched in July 2003, ICE agents have arrested more than 12,000 individuals through Operation Predator.

ICE encourages the public to report suspected child predators and any suspicious activity through its toll-free hotline at 1-866-347-2423. This hotline is staffed around the clock by investigators. Suspected child sexual exploitation or missing children may be reported to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, an Operation Predator partner, at 1-800-843-5678 or <http://www.cybertipline.com>.

This case was investigated by the ICE Office of Investigations in Jacksonville. It was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney D. Rodney Brown.